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Project: Collectors Basket

Overview: Whether you need a place to pile up your old magazines or a collect-all for children's toys, this basket is easy to fill up and move around. It is held together with mortise and tenon joints making it very strong so one can load it up with a lot of weight if needed.

Materials: This file is written for .70 thick Baltic birch plywood. To modify the file for thicker wood simply increase the width of the pockets.

Minimum Cutting Area: 24" x 48"

Bit Size: 1/4"

Finishing: It is very difficult to get a finish in between the slats, so finishing with a wipe on polyurethane or a brush to each piece before assembly makes for a better process.



Always read the entire project details before starting to cut the file yourself

Account for the thickness of the physical material on hand and the material thickness in the file

This file is zeroed to the tables surface, Zero your bit to the tables surface



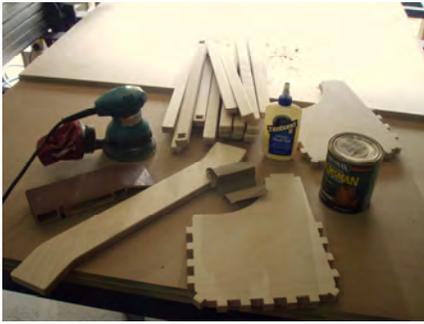
As the file starts cutting the profile of the parts make sure the cut is going all the way through the work piece and into the table surface. If you need to adjust any part of the file make sure you do not remove the hold down or you will loose position.



Included with the cut file is a hold down toolpath that shows where it is safe to put screws. Run this file separately from the cut file so you can screw down the work piece, or if you have a different size board or different type of hold down disregard the file.



Removing tabs with a utility knife works great. However if you have access to a RotoZip tabs can be removed a lot faster. Never try to push a piece out without cutting the tab, it will tear the grain on your project.



Once the pieces are removed power sand the faces and hand sand any sharp corners. Adding a round over routed edge adds to the eye appeal of this project.



Make sure you have fifteen slats, two end pieces and a handle. Get at least two coats of a polyurethane of your choice on each part before assembly. Try to keep the polyurethane out of the pockets and off the tenons on the end pieces.



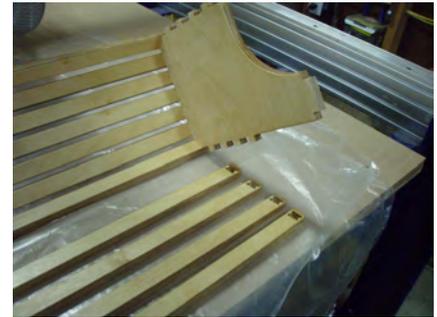
To start assembly you will need five slats and the two end pieces. Pay attention to the pictures to see the orientation of the end pieces. Failure to follow this layout will result in your handle not fitting.



Use a good amount of glue in each pocket. Take a small brush or your finger and cover all of the surfaces in this joint. It is better to have a little extra glue that squeezes out then not enough and the basket falls apart. Squeezed out glue can be easily wiped off.



Fill all the tenons on the five bottom slats. Then install the bottom pieces into these slats. Use a rubber mallet to help push it all together. **Note the direction of the end pieces and the handle in the background, if you have the end pieces backwards at this point, the handle will not fit.**



Let the bottom glue rest for about 30 minutes. Then assemble one side and let that sit for another 30 minutes. Repeat this for the other side. Letting the glue rest during this time helps ensure that it will not drip out of the joint.



If parts are snug going together, tap with a rubber mallet into place. Make sure a good amount of glue is in the pocket.



The last step is to glue on the handle. Fill the pockets with glue, tap into place, flip basket upside down and let it sit for 30 minutes.



The project will take shape and square itself as you assemble the slats. Wipe off any glue runs or glue that squeezed out of the joints. Double check the project for any spots that might have been missed during the finishing project. If you desire, add another coat of polyurethane to the outside of the basket to really make it shine. This basket can serve for many different jobs around the home and makes wonderful Christmas gifts.

Collectors Basket PartWorks
Collectors Basket Toolpath